

Glossop Dale Rural District Council.




ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For the Year ending Dec. 31st,

1905.



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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Sanitary Authority of the Glossop-Dale District.

GENTLEMEN,

As usual I am presenting you with copies of my Report to the Borough of Glossop.

In it I have given a table of the cases of Smallpox that have occurred in the Borough since I have been Medical Officer of Health. I have added remarks on the cases, and finished up with remarks on disinfection.

The Report on the health of the Borough of Glossop must be interesting to you, not only for the experience of a more dense population but because most of the infection that invades your borders comes from Glossop, or from the neighbouring towns or villages on the Cheshire side.

So far you have not been troubled with Smallpox. The Workhouse and the lodging-houses are in the Borough, and the itinerant population does not rest to any extent within your borders. Some may pass through, but not, I think, in very great numbers. We may any time, however, have a case, as this disease is still in our neighbourhood, and we should be prepared for it.

Under Smallpox in the Urban Report I have gone into measures suited to all air-borne diseases, while under Typhoid Fever I have discussed the measures suitable for prevention of a filth disease—general sanitation in fact.

Of course there are differences between an Urban, and a Rural District.

Some of the chief things to attend to in the Rural District are prevention of contamination of the shallow wells that supply so many of the farmhouses, and cleanliness in connection with the privy middens, and ashpits that seem to be a necessity in the more rural parts. Of course if earth closets could be adopted in place of privy middens they would be a great improvement.

Clean, commodious, and well-ventilated cow houses are of the greatest importance.

Some parts of your district, however, partake more of the urban character, and you have a sewage system for Marple Bridge.

It is desirable that water closets should be adopted in connection with it, and that ash bins should be adopted in place of ashpits.

Then at Gamesley the sewage of Cottage Lane and adjoining parts of Gamesley should be provided for.

Your population in 1891 was 4,383, and in 1901 it was 4,151, giving a decrease of 232 in the ten years.

It seems to me that intelligent sanitation in rural districts would be increased, and the flow of population from the country into the towns diminished by the dissemination of centres of agricultural education, that would interest the intellectual youth in country affairs.

It seems to me that agriculture as a branch, and an important branch, of applied chemistry and biology has in the past been sadly neglected.

It used to be thought that scientific knowledge and scientific investigation were of no use to the farmer, but I think that was because scientific investigation did not proceed on practical lines.

The British farmer has been called conservative in his methods, but he cannot help himself. The farmer who tills his land gets his results only once a year, and an experiment would have to be conducted over a long time. The farmer cannot afford to make experiments like those of the manufacturer who gets his results every day, or every week.

The farmer, unless his experiments are made for him by an authority, upon which he can, from experience, rely, is forced to be conservative in his methods.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

We have had 9 cases of this disease in 1905, against 4 in 1904, 7 in 1903, 32 in 1902, 7 in 1901, and 15 in 1900.

Of the 9 in 1905, 2 were in Charlesworth in January and 7 in Ludworth from April to September.

One case was removed from Gamesley, in the Parish of Charlesworth, to Chinley Hospital.

There were no deaths of cases belonging to the district.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

There were 2 cases of diphtheria—one in Charlesworth and one in Chisworth in 1905.

There were 2 of diphtheria in 1904, none of either disease in 1903, one case of membranous croup in 1902, 4 cases of diphtheria in 1901, and one case in 1900.

There was 1 death in Chisworth from the disease in the year 1905.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 4 cases of erysipelas in 1905, against 2 in 1904, 3 in 1903, 3 in 1902, 2 in 1901, and 3 in 1900.

There were no deaths.

TYPHOID FEVER.

There was 1 case of typhoid fever at Cottage Lane, in the Parish of Charlesworth in 1905.

There were 2 cases of the disease in 1904, 2 in 1903, 6 in 1902, 2 in 1901, and 2 in 1900.

The case of typhoid in 1905 recovered.

There were altogether 16 cases of notifiable disease in 1905. Directions for disinfection were given by me and by the Inspector.

Facilities are afforded by the kindness of the County Council for bacteriological examinations, in cases of typhoid and diphtheria, at the University of Birmingham.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act has now been in force for five years. I recommend the adoption of the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act of 1890.

MEASLES.

In the end of June, 1905, this disease was so prevalent in Marple Bridge that it was found necessary to close the Day School there for a fortnight.

Notices were also sent to the Sunday Schools.

There were no deaths from the disease in our district.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

On August 3rd I visited a house in Marple Bridge, and, after careful examination, certified it as dangerous under the above Act. It was closed.

OTHER VISITS PAID BY MEDICAL OFFICER.

[Not including Visits for Infectious Diseases.]

On January 11th I visited Forge Bank.

On March 29th June 20th, June 23rd, October 17th, and November 26th I visited Charlesworth, and took observations of a nuisance which has been remedied.

On June 15th I visited Hollins Lane and Marple Bridge.

BYE-LAWS.

The Rural District has bye-laws in force for Common Lodging-houses, and for New Streets and Buildings, as well as regulations under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order.

NUISANCES ABATED.

The Inspector reports 32 notices served for abatement of nuisances, and reports abatement in thirty cases.

Nine houses were disinfected by him after infectious diseases.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 71 on the register. The Inspector has made 18 inspections. There was a serious nuisance in connection with one farm which has been abated.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 4 in the district, *i.e.*, 2 in Charlesworth and 2 in Ludworth. The Inspector has made 8 visits, and directed one to be whitewashed. He found them otherwise in good order. There are no underground bakehouses.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The slaughter-houses are not registered. In 1904 the Inspector and I visited a slaughter-house in Ludworth. In 1905 the Inspector again visited and found that the required improvements as to drainage, etc., had been executed.

WORKSHOPS.

There are 16 workshops in the district. The Inspector has made 10 visits, and served one notice for infringement. Otherwise he found them satisfactory.

HOMEWORK.

There is to our knowledge no home work in the sense of the Act in our district.

STATISTICS.

The Area of the District	...	...	17,893 acres
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	922
Average number of persons per house	...	...	4.5
Population (census 1901)	...	...	4,151

The births in the district during 1905 were 44 boys and 31 girls, giving a total of 75. This gives a rate per thousand of 18·0.

The nett deaths in the district during the year were 50, giving a rate per thousand of 12·0.

The deaths of children under one year of age were 4.

The rate per thousand births was 53·3.

As stated above, between the census of 1891 and that of 1901 there was a decrease of the population of 232.

The excess of births over deaths in 1905 was 25. This gives us a natural rate of increase of 0·602 per cent., against 0·650 in 1904; 0·626 in 1903; 0·216 in 1902; and 0·602 in 1901.

I think the above facts justify us in calculating upon the basis of a stationary population.

The census population of Charlesworth was 1967.

Deaths in 1905	...	...	...	23
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	11·7

The census population of Chisworth was 409.

Deaths in 1905	...	...	...	6
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	14 6

The census population of Ludworth was 1,775.

Deaths in 1905	...	...	...	21
Rate per thousand..	...	...	...	11·7

DEATHS FROM PHTHISIS IN FIVE YEARS.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000.
1901	3	0·72
1902	3	0·72
1903	5	1·20
1904	4	0·96
1905	2	0·48

There was 1 death from other tubercular diseases in 1905, against 2 in 1904, 4 in 1903, and none in 1901 and 1902.

Birth, Death, and Infantile Death Rates for ten years :—

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Death Rate.
1896 ...	25·5 ...	20·1 ...	165
1897 ...	21·2 ...	14·8 ...	155
1898 ...	23·4 ...	13·0 ...	80·8
1899 ...	21·4 ...	13·8 ...	166·6
1900 ...	21·8 ...	13·4 ...	76·9
1901 ...	21·4 ...	15·4 ...	101·1
1902 ...	16·3 ...	14·2 ...	102·9
1903 ...	20·2 ...	13·9 ...	83·3
1904 ...	18·3 ...	11·8 ...	65·8
1905 ...	18·0 ...	12·0 ...	53·3

The deaths in the district during 1905 were from the following diseases :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	2
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	1
Cancer and Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	2
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	7
Accidents	...	...	...	1
Suicides	...	...	...	1
Unclassified Diseases	...	...	...	21
				<hr/> 50 <hr/>

There were no deaths from smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, whooping-cough, croup, typhus, enteric or other continued fever, epidemic influenza, cholera, plague, diarrhœa, enteritis, puerperal fever, erysipelas, other septic diseases, pleurisy, other, diseases of respiratory organs, alcoholism and cirrhosis of liver, venereal diseases, or rheumatic fever.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

Duncan J. Mackenzie, M.D.

Loch Maree House,

Glossop,

February 14th, 1906.

